

DAVID LOEBSACK

2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

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February 25, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
US House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

After an undeserved week-long break, Congress is returning today with just four days to stop sequestration from taking effect. As I have said repeatedly, allowing sequestration to occur and putting politics ahead of jobs, the economy, and our national security would be the height of irresponsibility. I voted against the creation of sequestration precisely because I was concerned that politics in Washington would win out over the good of our economy, Iowans, and hardworking men and women across the country. I urge you to ensure that is not the case.

Congress should be working to spur economic growth and job creation, not hampering economic recovery. If sequestration takes effect, it would have economic repercussions across our economy and the country.

Furloughs resulting from sequestration would undermine vital national security work, including that at Rock Island Arsenal where thousands of the men and women who build equipment for our troops are left wondering if they will lose 20% of their pay due to furloughs this year. In Iowa alone, over a thousand fewer students would receive work-study support to help them afford the college education they need to become future leaders and economic drivers. Nationwide, the National Science Foundation would award 1,000 fewer grants for innovative, cutting edge research like that done at the University of Iowa. These are just a few of the examples of the wide-spread repercussions sequestration would have on hard-working families, our economy, and our security.

Congress must work every day to stop sequestration. The House of Representatives should not take a single day off until a balanced, bipartisan solution is reached. I urge you to work with the Senate and with the Administration to find such a solution and to keep the House working until a solution is reached.

In addition, it is incumbent on Congress to demonstrate that those who were elected to represent their constituents facing the effects of sequestration that their elected officials take seriously the impact sequestration will have on them. People across the country who work every day for our national security and to deliver critical services to American families face loss of pay due to

furloughs. At the same time, Iowans and people across the country face disruption of vital services they rely on every day. Congress should demonstrate how seriously it takes this situation by taking up and passing my legislation, the CHIP IN and Cut Congressional Pay Act (HR 398), which would cut Congress' pay and repeal automatic pay increases. With our constituents facing the impact of sequestration, Congress must do its part, stop sequestration, and chip in by cutting congressional salaries for the first time since 1933.

I stand ready to work with you on a bipartisan basis to stop sequestration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loebsack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dave" and last name "Loebsack" clearly legible.

Dave Loebsack
Iowa's Second District